



**catholic diocese
of christchurch**
to sanctify - to teach - to care for



Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament - September 2011 Update

INTRODUCTION

This is the first of what will be regular updates from the Cathedral Management Board on the future of the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament.

The Management Board is led by **Lance Ryan**, Insurance Broker at FMR Risk insurance company and a member of the Rangiora parish. He is joined on the board by:

Simon Pascoe - architect for the firm Pascoe Linton Sellars. Simon is a long time parishioner of the Cathedral and member of the previous Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament Charitable Trust.

Kathryn Dalziel - Associate Solicitor at Taylor Shaw and a member of St Teresa's Parish, Riccarton.

Tony Sewell - Chief Executive of Ngai Tahu Property Ltd since its establishment in 1994. He has completed his second term on the Board of Employers Christchurch.

Minister's visit

Chris Finlayson, the Minister of Arts, Culture & Heritage is to visit this week to gain a first hand understanding of the damage to the Cathedral and the way forward.

Future planning

Once work on demolishing the rear of the Basilica is complete and the land has been cleared, we will be able to carry on our assessment of damage to the nave and start to consider future options for the building and site.

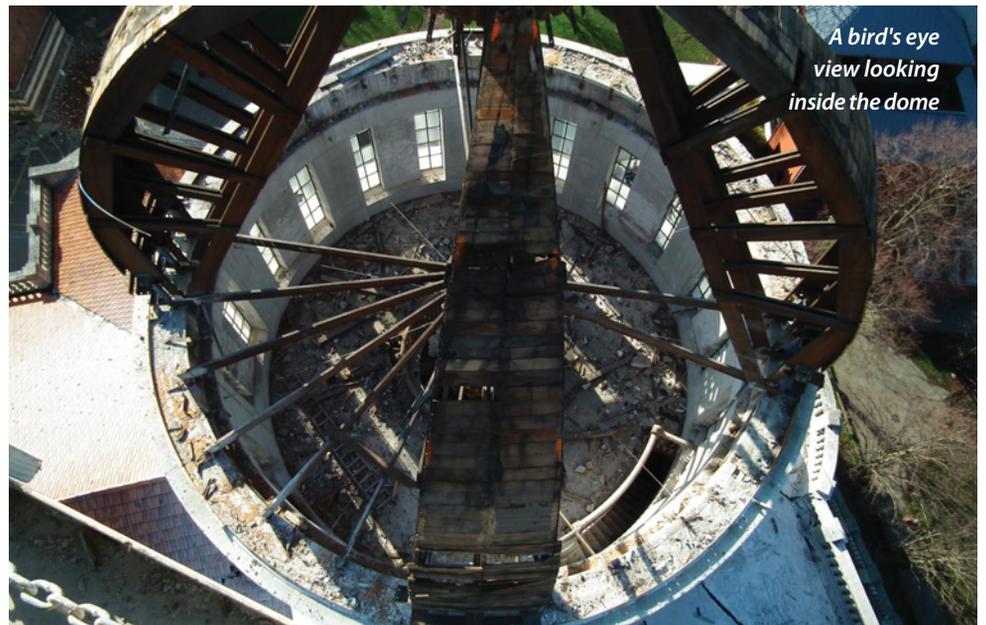
Peripheral Issues

Music Centre

The Annunciation window (a remnant from the original Pro cathedral previously in place in the Music Centre Hostel building) has been carefully removed packaged and put into storage for future reuse.

Contact: Lance Ryan, chairman of the Cathedral Management Board, phone 021 246 0354.

Work in progress



A bird's eye view looking inside the dome

Deconstruction/demolition of the rear of the Basilica will commence this week (starting September 19) and should take about eight weeks to complete. The deconstruction of the rear will be methodical and will be to floor level. It is proposed to retain a section of the south east wall whilst the floor of the sanctuary area will be retained. It is not

proposed to remove any foundations.

Contractors and the engineers have established that the Nave roof where it abuts the dome base is actually supporting the last section of roof. A supporting truss has been constructed and installed to separate the roof from the dome outer wall.

Work recently completed

The complete removal of the upper section of the cathedral dome was completed by August 20.

Masonry has been sorted and is being transported to storage. Additional work included the removal of the inner dome ceiling in one singular section. At the same time the crucifixion cross was also removed, packed and put into storage.

The removal of this central dome section has opened up access to the whole of the inner dome structure, allowing further detailed assessment of that area which has informed finalising the methodology for the next phase of the works.

Contents recoverable

The "Altar" itself appears to have sustained irreparable damage. Masonry has fallen onto the Altar following the June earthquake causing the damage.

Although the Bevington organ is damaged, it is

believed that it is repairable if it can be recovered. Every attempt will also be made to recover easily retrieved items from the Sacristy areas via secure safe reinforced container passageway.



Removal of the crucifix